



The Fire Service News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



July - August 1999

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A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training

"Training on the Leading Edge"

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From the Director . . .

Vacation time is here and I hope everyone has a happy and safe summer. With the July 4th celebration upon us we must assure that all the applicable laws and safety regulations are followed to protect those wanting to have fun, watching a fireworks display. There are several activities going on at the Division of Fire Standards and Training:

- The self-contained breathing apparatus maze trailer has been making its way around the state. It is a trailer that consists of cube that is in the dark, I mean dark. The object is to go in one door, SCBA donned, and come out the other door after traversing the maze. The whole time the student is watched on infrared camera, and being videotaped! Departments wishing to utilize this training tool should contact the Fire Academy.
- There have been several concerns about the Division of Fire Standards and Training communicating about the need to fill out "Form A" for retirement benefits for full-time fire personnel. To meet eligibility for retirement benefits as a firefighter, the firefighter must meet the requirements as a full-time firefighter outlined in the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules. These rules have been in place since 1982, with minor revisions throughout the years. The Retirement Department checks with the Division to assure the rules are properly followed prior to placing an individual in the Retirement System. For more information, please contact Heather at the Fire Academy (reference RSAs: 21-P: 27, 21-P: 29, and 100-A: 1, VIII).
- Lincoln Fire Department, Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Rosolen has been hired at the Division of Fire Standards and Training as Captain in the Bureau of Training and Certification. We welcome Dennis who holds a Master's Degree in Education and will work on achieving accreditation for the Commission's certification curricula. This should be accomplished before the end of this year. Welcome, Dennis!
- The National Fire Academy sponsors the Volunteer Incentive Program which are typically six-day, intense programs that are offered at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. They are offered in four sessions during the next fiscal year: Session A is October 31 to November 5, 1999; Session B is January 30 to February 4, 2000; Session C is March 5 to 10, 2000; and, Session D is April 2 to 7, 2000. Accepted students will receive a stipend for travel to and from the Academy, room is provided free, and meals are about \$15.00 per day during their stay. These programs are established so people need not take a great deal of time away to attend. This year there are eight courses to choose from. The Division sent a flyer to every New Hampshire Fire Department this past month. Call the New Hampshire Fire Academy for more details.

We are making every attempt to cater to the needs of our constituents, the New Hampshire Fire Service. If you have any questions or concerns regarding fire training within our State, please contact us at 1-800-371-4503. We have received a great deal of support from you; we are truly appreciative for such support, and we want to support you in any manner we can. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Rick Mason, Director

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS

Subscriptions to the bi-monthly Newsletter are available to NH Firefighters at no charge simply by completing the request below.

Name: _____

S.S. # _____ D.O.B. _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Fire Dept. Affiliation: Full Time Career (over \$10,000 Annually?): Yes () No ()

Primary Fire Department: _____

Rank: _____

Secondary Fire Department: _____ Rank: _____

Highest Level of Education: High School () College 2 yr. () College 4 yrs. () Post Grad. ()

Levels of Certification:

FF I () FF Career () FF 2 () FF 3 () D/O () 1st Resp. () EMT () B () A () I ()

Other: _____

EMS: _____

State Instructor: Yes () No () If yes, certified courses taught in the last year:

Title	Location	Cref # (if available)	Dates	Hours

Submit Completed Subscription Request Forms To:

Newsletter Request
New Hampshire Fire Academy
10 Hazen Drive
Concord NH 03305

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun.	June 26 - July 2	Annual Fire Explorer Program	NHFA
Mon.	July 5-11	NAPD All Vehicle Program	Pease

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri.	Sept. 10	Fall 1999 Fire Officer Prog. Application Deadline	NHFA
Mon.	Sept. 20 - 24	Statewide Firefighter Entrance Examination	NFFA
Thurs.	Sept. 23	Fall 1999 Fire Officer Program Orientation	NHFA
Mon.	Oct. 4 - Nov. 5	Fall 1999 Fire Officer Program	NHFA
Mon.	Oct. 18 - 24	NAPD All Vehicle Program	Pease
Mon.	Nov. 15 - 21	NAPD All Vehicle Program	Pease

"A CALL TO BROTHERHOOD - TIME TO SAY THANK YOU"

We are moving in!

Bring your family and "Carry the Spirit" to the:

PITTSBURG FIRE & RESCUE OPEN HOUSE

July 31, 1999 - 3:00 p.m.

Parade at 2:30 p.m.

All are invited to walk with Pittsburg Fire & Rescue from
the old station to the new Brotherhood station.

Dedication of Station.....	3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, exhibits	4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Dinner	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dance	7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

All at the new station. We would love to see you all again.

For more information, please contact Chief Sandy Young at 538-7409.

1999 Statewide Entrance Exam

September 20 - 24, 1999

TEST '99

The New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training is accepting applications from individuals interested in taking the New Hampshire Statewide Entrance Examination for Firefighters. This exam process complies with the New Hampshire requirements for Entry-Level Career Firefighter testing. This test will establish a statewide listing of eligible candidates which communities may consider for Entry-Level Firefighter positions when available. At present the following departments (*subject to change*) have expressed an interest:

Allenstown	Epsom	Hopkinton	Portsmouth
Barnstead	Exeter	Hudson	Raymond
Bedford	Franklin	Keene	Rindge
Belmont	Gilford	Laconia	Rochester
Berlin	Gilmanton	Loudon	Rye
Claremont	Goffstown	Merrimack	Salem
Concord	Gorham	Newington	Seabrook
Derry	Hampton	Newport	Seabrook Station
Durham	Hanover	North Hampton	Somersworth
East Derry	Hooksett	Pelham	Wolfeboro

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and a valid photo driver's license. A nonrefundable administration fee of \$40.00 must accompany each application. The testing process includes a written, general knowledge examination and a noncontinuous physical ability test delivered on one day and a continuous physical ability test on a second day, for a total candidate commitment of two days. All testing will be completed at the New Hampshire Fire Academy located at 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. Candidates will be assigned testing dates after their application packets have been accepted. The application packet contains all necessary forms and instructions for the testing candidate and may be obtained by written request only, directed to:

New Hampshire Fire Academy
Entrance Testing
10 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305

The Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training is an AA/EEO employer.

Deadline for Applications
August 13, 1999

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What does Kevin Madison, Northwood Fire Rescue Association, have in common with The Shangri-Las? Is it his voice, his dance style, or maybe a combination of both?!?! For those of you who were unable to see his performance on June 11 with The Shangri-Las at Coe-Brown Academy in Northwood, you don't know what you missed!

Staff Biographical Sketches

The Fire Service News is continuing a column profiling two Division employees in each issue. Customers will now be able to put a face with a name, and know who they are talking to when they call the Division.

CHARLES W. ROFFO, Captain

Charles Roffo, Captain with the Division of Fire Standards & Training, began his career in emergency services in 1975 as a volunteer member of a heavy rescue company based in Quincy, Mass. Civil Defense organization.

Charlie was appointed as a full time career firefighter to the General Dynamic Shipyard fire department in 1984. In 1985, Charlie moved to New Hampshire and became a full-time EMT for the Center Barnstead Fire Department Ambulance, covering seven towns. When Center Barnstead discontinued their ambulance service, Charlie went to work as a dispatcher with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. He remained there until his appointment to the NH Fire Academy in September of 1997. He is also still currently a member of Barnstead Fire-Rescue.

Charlie holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Protection from the New Hampshire Community Technical College in Laconia.

Since 1993, Charlie has been a member of the Beverly, MA, FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team (MA-TF1) serving as a Technical Information Specialist.

His current responsibilities include coordination of terrorism programming for the State's fire service, grant writing, and special Academy projects.

Charlie lives in Concord with his wife Barbara.



STACEY A. DEVOL, District Secretary

Stacey A. DeVol was born in Munich, Germany; her family moved to New England when she was a toddler; and she has resided in New Hampshire since the third grade. Stacey worked at the Department of Safety Division of Motor Vehicles for six long years before coming to the Fire Academy in April of this year. She is District Secretary for Rockingham, Sullivan, Merrimack, and Strafford Counties, which are Districts 1, 4, 5, and 6 respectively; is secretary for the Academy's Fire Officer Program; and was recently appointed as the secretary for the NH Fire Service Committee of Merit.

Stacey lives in Loudon with Chris, her husband of seven years. They are eagerly expecting their first child in November. They also share their home with Gunther, their doberman; Tia, their mini-doby; and three Siamese kitties - Cedric, Malachi, and Yaki. Stacey enjoys gardening, all-you-can-eat buffets, and 70's music. She collects frogs, Indian art, and beanie babies.



NVFC Spring Meeting a Success

The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Spring Meeting, hosted by the Georgia State Firefighter's Association, was held in Jekyll Island, Georgia from May 5 - 8. Forty-one state associations, various speakers from the federal government, other association representatives and special guests attended the three-day meeting.

The NVFC meeting began with a full day and a half of committee meetings. The nearly one dozen committees met to make recommendations to the full Board on pertinent issues.

The general session opened with speakers from the National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO), the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the National Fire Protection Association, the U.S. Fire Administration and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

The NVFC Legislative Committee set new legislative priorities for the 106th congress. Congressman Pascrell's \$5 billion FIRE bill was moved to NVFC's priority list. To keep abreast of all of NVFC's legislative priorities, sign up for the weekly email legislative update service at csharman@nvfc.org or visit the NVFC website at www.nvfc.org

The Membership Committee recommended a membership dues increase effective in the year 2000. The dues will increase to \$30 for Personal Members, \$50 for Department Members and \$500 for Sustaining Members. The dues are the first increase in 20 years.

The 1-800-FIRE-Line committee met to discuss the progress of the recruitment program. Alternative advertising initiatives were discussed as well as methods of recruiting the remaining states to participate in the program. To date, 24 states use the toll free number for recruitment purposes, a dozen have indicated they are interested in signing up for the program or are interested in coming on line.

The program is sponsored by the prudential Foundation. The Foundation has underwritten the cost of producing and distributing a Fire Line video and poster to every high school and library in the United States. The NVFC presented the Prudential Foundation with an Appreciation Award for their outstanding contribution to America's volunteer fire service.

Elections for the Officers positions and the NVFC Executive Committee were also conducted at the meeting. These elections are conducted every two years. The officers all ran uncontested, the results are shown below:

Chairman Fred G. Allinson, Washington State Fire Fighters Association
First Vice Chairman Steve Ennis, Virginia State Firefighter's Association
Second Vice Chairman Aubrey Boudreaux, Louisiana State Firemens Association
Treasurer Allen Metheny, Delaware Volunteer Firemens Association
Secretary Paul Lukus, Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania

NVFC Executive Committee: **Fred G. Allinson**, Washington State Fire Fighters Association
Steve Ennis, Virginia State Firefighter's Association
Aubrey Boudreaux, Louisiana State Firemens Association
Allen Metheny, Delaware Volunteer Firemens Association
Paul Lukus, Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania
Phil Stittleburg, Wisconsin State Firefighters Association
E. James Monihan, Delaware Volunteer Firemens Association
Robert Cumberland, Maryland State Firemens Association
James Gordon, South Dakota Firefighters Association
Phil Sayer, Fire Fighters Association of Missouri
Walter Drinkard, Alabama State Firefighters Association

The three days of meetings culminated with the NVFC banquet. The banquet included the installation of the new Officers and Executive Committee members. The Marc Mueller Fire Prevention Award of Excellence, sponsored by Master Protection Corporation, was bestowed to Joe Stambush of Kentucky.

The NVFC Fall meeting will be hosted by the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association and will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee from October 21 - 24. For information, contact NVFC at 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832).



NVFC Reaffirms Legislative Priorities for the 106th Congress

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has reaffirmed its legislative priorities for this session of congress. These priorities were decided at NVFC's national meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia, which was held May 5 - 8. These priorities are:

Volunteer Fire Assistance Program – This is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Rural fire departments that protect communities with populations under 10,000 apply for grants to subsidize training, equipment, and protective clothing. The program was appropriated \$2 million for FY 1999 even though the program receives requests for more than \$24 million annually. The NVFC is recommending that it receive \$10 million in funding for FY 2000.

H.R. 46 / S. 39 - Public Safety Medal of Valor – This legislation was introduced by Representative Bill McCollum. It allows for the creation of a medal, similar to the Congressional Medal of Honor, that will be awarded to nominated public safety officers who act above and beyond the line of duty.

Status: The House of Representatives passed this legislation on April 13. Senator Ted Stevens has introduced a Senate version (S. 39).

H.R. 329 - Children's Sleepwear Safety Act – This legislation was introduced by Congressman Rob Andrews (former Chair of the Fire Caucus). It requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to revoke amendments it made in 1996 to the Children's Sleepwear Safety Standard. The 1996 amendments weakened the original standard, created in 1972. Currently, the CPSC is reviewing whether to maintain, revoke, or amend the 1996 standards based on public comment. Congressman Andrews legislation was introduced as a safety net in case the CPSC decides to maintain the 1996 amendments.

Status: The legislation was introduced on January 19 and has been referred to the House Commerce Committee.

H.R. 1168- Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act – This legislation was introduced by Representative Bill Pascrell. It will authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make grants to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

Status: This legislation was introduced March 17 and has been referred to the House Committee on Science and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R. 1382- Volunteer Firefighter and Rescue Squad Worker Protection Act – Congressman Herb Bateman introduced this legislation. The bill aims to strike down a U.S. Department of Labor opinion that states paid firefighters cannot volunteer as firefighters in the same community in which they work. The NVFC believes that this opinion violates the spirit of volunteerism and takes away a firefighters right to protect their own community. The legislation contains anti-coercion language so that a firefighter cannot be coerced into volunteering their time if they do not wish to do so.

Status: This legislation was introduced April 13 and has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Helping Hands Legislation – The NVFC is seeking to introduce legislation modeled after the Texas "Helping Hands" legislation passed in 1997. The legislation would allow companies to donate used firefighting equipment to fire departments without the risk of liability. This would enable many rural and volunteer departments with very limited funding to acquire the equipment they need to adequately protect their communities.



NH FOREST FIRE SERVICES

News & Notes



Remember . . . Safety First . . . On Every Incident . . . Every Time!

- 1) The Bureau is pleased to announce the promotions of Forest Rangers Bryan Nowell and Bert von Dohrmann to the South and North Regional Forest Rangers, respectively. These promotions took effect in May.

The Bureau is currently interviewing an in-house candidate for an entry level Forest Ranger position and is advertising for out-of-house candidates.

- 2) Our annual weekend fire training is scheduled for July 23-25, 1999 at Bear Brook State Park. This training is available and open to ALL NH FIREFIGHTERS who want to increase their wildland fire skills for local, in-state or out-of-state fire assignments. We are requesting that ALL trainees plan to stay over Saturday night.

Contact Christine Colby at 271-2217 8am-4pm Monday through Friday for an application. The training is limited to the first 250 applicants. Bring your wildland fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- 3) Our annual fire statistics continue to rise. As of June 5, 1999 we have had 929 fires reported, for 430.5 acres burned and these fires have impacted on, at least, 33 structures. Our fire towers have been the first report on, at least, four fires that involved structures.
- 4) We want to thank all of the Forest Fire Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Special Deputy Wardens, Firefighters and their families for their support and efforts in suppressing these fires. We also want to thank our Ranger staff, Tower and Patrol people for their long, dedicated hours trying to fill the gaps until we get back to full staff.

Pascrell Bill Becomes NVFC Priority

The National Volunteer Fire Council decided last week at its national meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia to make H.R. 1168, the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act, one of its top priorities for this legislative session.

Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) introduced the legislation on March 17. The bill would authorize \$5 billion in grants to fire departments over 5 years (\$1 billion each year for five years) and will attempt to give firefighters the level of funding the federal government has provided to law enforcement, educators, and other professionals. After introduction, the bill was simultaneously referred to the House Committee on Science and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The legislation, which was introduced in a similar format during the last Congressional session, will provide grants to

fire departments for personnel, training, RAID teams, certification of fire inspectors, wellness/fitness programs, EMS expenses, apparatus, communications, PPE, infrastructure modification, fire code enforcement, fire prevention programs, and public education. The grants are available to volunteer, paid, and combination departments. Fire departments must match 10 percent of the grant to be eligible. Additionally, local governments must keep their fire departments' budget at the same level it has been at for the two fiscal years prior to receiving the grant. This is to ensure that fire departments do not lose local funding solely because they receive a grant under this program.

ACTION: Write your Representative immediately and urge them to support H.R. 1168.

USFA Opens Y2K Information Center For Fire Service Community

Emmitsburg, Md. — The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has established a special project office to address the Y2K issues of the American fire service.

"Our goal is to provide a network for finding and sharing Y2K answers for the fire service community," said USFA Administrator, Carrye B. Brown.

The **USFA Y2K Information Center** collects and disseminates information on assessment tools, the readiness status of fire departments and 9-1-1 centers, problems and solutions, contingency planning, and rumor control.

The center's Y2K newsletter is distributed to fire departments across the nation and to major fire service organiza-

tions. Information is also available by phone, mail or e-mail. Center staff will assist fire service providers to reach Y2K readiness through referrals to both relevant web sites and related information from other fire departments.

Fire department officials are encouraged to contact the **USFA Y2K Information Center** and share stories of best practices or their Y2K-related efforts or inquire about materials available.

Contact the center by phone at (301) 447-1328 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday. The mailing address is 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727. The center can also be reached via the USFA web site at Uwww.usfa.fema.gov/y2k/

VISITING COMMITTEE NEEDED!!

The New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training Commission is seeking qualified personnel to be part of the Visiting Committee to review the Driver/Operator Curriculum. If you feel qualified and are interested in serving, contact Chief Litevich at the New Hampshire Fire Academy by June 15, 1999 (1-800-371-4503 or 271-2661).

New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission Members

REPRESENTING:

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Commissioner of Safety
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Richard A. Mason

NEW HAMPSHIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM



The Granite State

Medical Subsidy Rates Increase

Pursuant to RSA 100-A:52, the medical subsidy rate for eligible retired Group II members (firefighters and police officers) increases by 8% on July 1st of each year. (Refer to the summary of eligibility requirements and the medical subsidy rates, listed below.) The medical subsidy is paid by NHRS toward the cost of health insurance for the retired member and the retired member’s qualified spouse and qualified dependent children with a disability. NHRS makes the medical subsidy payment directly to the retired member’s former employer or the health insurance carrier; NHRS does not make the payment to the retired member.

Eligibility for Medical Subsidy – Firefighter And Police Officer Members

- Active or retired police officer member as of June 30, 1993, or active or retired firefighter member as of June 30, 1995.
- Member is/was eligible to retire on the basis of Group II service only.
- Member retires/retired under service or disability retirement (not vested deferred retirement).

Medical Subsidy Rates

Type of Plan	7/1/98 - 6/30/99	7/1/99 - 6/30/2000
1 Person	\$187.88	\$202.91
2 Person	\$375.76	\$405.82
1 Person Medicare supplement	\$118.47	\$127.95
2 Person Medicare supplement	\$236.94	\$255.90

For more information about the medical subsidy, please contact an annuity representative by calling (603) 271-3351.



NVFC Joins Fire Safe Cigarette Coalition

On May 11, the National Volunteer Fire Council joined the Fire Safe Cigarette Coalition. The coalition, organized by the Trauma Foundation, includes the major fire service organizations as well as various burn institutes from across the country.

The main goal of the coalition is to promote the passage of the H.R. 1130, the “Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1999,” which

directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate fire safety standards for cigarette. The bill was introduced by Representative Joseph Mauchly on March 16 and has been referred to the House Committee on Commerce.

ACTION: The coalition is urging everyone to call or write their Representatives and tell them to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1130.



NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY SELECTS OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

Emmitsburg, MD – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently awarded four fire service executives the National Fire Academy's Outstanding Research Award. The four winners were selected from the Academy's 593 Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) applied research papers and were presented at the 11th Executive Fire Officer Symposium held May 14-16, 1999.

Awarded annually, the NFA Outstanding Research Award recognizes excellent applied research projects completed by EFOP students. This year, four research efforts were judge outstanding.

"These applied projects represent innovation, creativity, and excellence in research design," said USFA Administrator Carrye B. Brown. "Many EFOP research projects have ultimately resulted in improved delivery of fire protection and emergency services at state and local levels."

The 1998 Outstanding Research Award recipients are:

- Edward L. Senter, Jr., Battalion Chief, Norfolk Fire and Paramedical Services, Norfolk, Virginia
Paper: "Evaluation of Fire apparatus Design Changes in the Norfolk Department of Fire and Paramedical Services"
Course: Strategic Management of Change
- Robert G. Taylor, Captain, Morristown Fire Bureau, Morristown, New Jersey
Paper: "Compressed Air Foam Systems in Limited Staffing Conditions"
Course: Executive Development
- Bernard E. Williams, Ph.D., Deputy Chief, Edmonton Emergency Response Department, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Paper: "The Effects of Oxygen Enriched Air on Firefighter Job Performance"
Course: Executive Leadership
- Kenneth E. Wood, Fire Protection Engineer, Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Chicago, Illinois
Paper: "The Fire Experience in Home Day Care Occupancies"
Course: Executive Development

The NFA's Executive Fire Officer Program is designed to provide senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire administration. Over a 4-year period, the officers continue their professional development in four courses at the Academy. The American Council on Education has evaluated the courses and recommended them for graduate-level credit equivalency. In addition to the course work, program participants are required to complete an applied research project in their organization six months after the completion of each of the four course areas.

To obtain a copy of the four award-winning projects (Executive Fire Officer Outstanding Applied Research Awards 1998), contact the National Fire Academy, Executive Programs Branch, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727; or call (800) 238-3358, extension 1639, and leave a request on voice mail. Copies of the individual outstanding research projects are also available online from the U.S. Fire Administration's web site at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to The Fire Service News are encouraged. For consideration, articles and photographs should be of interest to New Hampshire firefighters and the greater fire service community. Black & White photographs provide the best clarity. Direct submissions, with appropriate publication releases, to:

Editor
The Fire Service News
10 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03305

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